

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 13 and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A jointing member comprising:
 - a grommet; and
 - a pin,
 - wherein the grommet comprises:
 - a flange portion;
 - a leg portion capable of being opened, in which an insertion hole is formed from a center of the flange portion to an inner portion of the leg portion in which a lower end of the leg portion is opened;
 - a plurality of slits extending along said leg portion of said grommet to divide said leg portion into a plurality of leg portion pieces; and
 - an engagement portion formed at an inner surface of the leg portion,
 - wherein the pin comprises:
 - a head portion; ~~and~~
 - a shaft portion to be inserted into the insertion hole, in which an engagement surface and a lock surface each engagable with the engagement portion, when said shaft portion is inserted into said insertion hole, are formed on the shaft portion; and
 - a plurality of rib walls formed on an outer periphery of said shaft portion, said plurality of rib walls engaging said plurality of slits, and
 - wherein a distance from the flange portion of said grommet to a tip ~~end~~ of said leg portion of said grommet is greater than a distance from said head portion of said pin to a tip ~~end~~ of said shaft portion of said pin.

2. (Previously Presented) The jointing member according to claim 1, wherein in a state where the engagement portion formed on the leg portion of the grommet engages with the engagement surface formed at the shaft portion of the pin, the pin is removable from the insertion hole of the grommet.

3. (Previously Presented) The jointing member according to claim 1, wherein the engagement portion formed on the leg portion of the grommet engages with the lock surface formed on the shaft portion as the engagement portion moves along the lock surface while maintaining an opened state of the leg portion of the grommet.

4. (Previously Presented) The jointing member according to claim 2, wherein the engagement portion formed on the leg portion of the grommet engages with the lock surface formed on the shaft portion as the engagement portion moves along the lock surface while maintaining an opened state of the leg portion of the grommet.

5. (Currently Amended) The jointing member according to claim 1, wherein in a state where the engagement portion formed on the leg portion of the grommet engages with the engagement surface formed on the shaft portion of the pin, ~~the tip end~~ of the shaft portion of the pin is buried within the insertion hole of the grommet.

6. (Currently Amended) The jointing member according to claim 2, wherein in a state where the engagement portion formed on the leg portion of the grommet engages with the engagement surface formed on the shaft portion of the pin, ~~the tip end~~ of the shaft portion of the pin is buried within the insertion hole of the grommet.

7. (Currently Amended) The jointing member according to claim 3, wherein in a state

where the engagement portion formed on the leg portion of the grommet engages with the engagement surface formed on the shaft portion of the pin, ~~[[a]] the tip end~~ of the shaft portion of the pin is buried within the insertion hole of the grommet.

8. (Currently Amended) The jointing member according to claim 4, wherein in a state where the engagement portion formed on the leg portion of the grommet engages with the engagement surface formed on the shaft portion of the pin, ~~[[a]] the tip end~~ of the shaft portion of the pin is buried within the insertion hole of the grommet.

9. (Currently Amended) A jointing member comprising:

a grommet, said grommet comprising:

a flange portion;

a leg portion capable of being opened;

a plurality of slits extending along said leg portion of said grommet to divide said leg portion into a plurality of leg portion pieces;

an insertion hole formed in said leg portion from a center of the flange portion to an inner portion of the leg portion, said insertion hole comprising:

a large diameter portion formed at an upper end of said insertion hole adjacent to said flange; and

a small diameter portion formed adjacent to a bottom portion of said large diameter portion;

an engagement portion formed on an inner surface of said leg portion; and

an extending portion, formed on an end of each of said plurality of leg portion pieces distal from said flange portion, which extends to form a pin hole portion whose diameter is smaller than that of the large diameter portion; and

a pin, said pin comprising:

~~wherein the grommet comprises:~~

~~a flange portion;~~

~~a leg portion capable of being opened, in which an insertion hole is formed from a center of the flange portion to an inner portion of the leg portion; and~~

~~an engagement portion formed on an inner surface of the leg portion;~~

~~wherein the pin comprises:~~

~~a head portion; and~~

~~a shaft portion to be inserted into the insertion hole, in which an engagement surface and a lock surface each engagable with the engagement portion, when said shaft portion is inserted into said insertion hole, are formed on the shaft portion; and~~

~~a plurality of rib walls formed on an outer periphery of said shaft portion, said plurality of rib walls engaging said plurality of slits,~~

~~wherein the flange portion of the grommet comprises:~~

~~a large diameter portion adjacent to an upper end of the insertion hole;~~

~~an engagement hole in a position where a bottom portion of the large diameter portion is adjacent; and~~

~~an extending portion which is extended to form a pin hole portion whose diameter is smaller than that of the large diameter portion in a free state on a side of a tip that is far from the flange portion;~~

~~wherein the shaft portion of the pin further comprises:~~

~~said engagement surface which holds the engagement portion displaced to a radially outward direction to keep the leg portion of the grommet in an opened state, in a state that the pin is incorporated into the grommet, in parallel with a center line of the shaft portion and in a direction of the center line of the shaft portion for a predetermined length; and~~

~~a lock surface which protrudes in a radially outward direction in a tip of the shaft portion so as to prevent the engagement portion from falling away from the engagement~~

surface to shift to a state that a diameter of the leg portion becomes small,

wherein the engagement portion of the grommet, and the engagement surface of the pin and the lock surface of the pin are relatively provided in a shaft direction at a position where the grommet and the pin are enabled to slide for a predetermined distance in a state that the grommet and the pin are incorporated to have the leg portion opened, and

wherein a distance from the flange portion of said grommet to a tip ~~end~~ of said leg portion of said grommet is greater than a distance from said head portion of said pin to a tip ~~end~~ of said shaft portion of said pin.

10. (Currently Amended) The jointing member according to claim 9, wherein the tip of the shaft portion of the pin, which is provided with the lock surface, is surrounded with the extending portion of each of the plurality of leg portions ~~portion pieces~~ of the grommet in a state that the grommet and the pin are incorporated to have the plurality of leg portions ~~portion pieces~~ opened, and is inside the tip hole portion of the grommet.

11. (Previously Presented) The jointing member according to claim 9, wherein the predetermined distance that the grommet and the pin are enabled to slide comprises 0.5 mm to 2 mm.

12. (Currently Amended) The jointing member according to claim 1, wherein said engagement portion comprises a protruding portion extending from ~~the~~ an inner surface of said leg portion.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The jointing member according to claim 1, wherein said

engagement portion is formed on an inner surface of an expanded side of said leg portion adjacent to said tip end of said leg portion.

15. (Previously Presented) The jointing member according to claim 1, further comprising:
at least one tool insertion groove extending in a radial direction and being formed on an upper surface of said flange portion.

16. (Previously Presented) The jointing member according to claim 15, wherein said at least one tool insertion groove comprises a plurality of tool insertion grooves.

17. (Currently Amended) The jointing member according to claim ~~1~~ 13, further comprising:

a projection, for provisional engagement with a portion of one of said plurality of rib walls ~~a rib wall~~, being formed on an edge of said slits at an edge of said insertion hole on a side of said slits adjacent to said flange portion.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The jointing member according to claim ~~1~~ 18, wherein at least one of said plurality of rib walls comprises:

a bent arm portion formed along said plurality of rib walls.

20. (Currently Amended) The jointing member according to claim ~~1~~ 18, further comprising:

a rib wall engagement projection formed along each of said plurality of rib walls, wherein said provisional engagement projection is engaged between said bent arm

portion and said rib wall engagement projection.

21. (Previously Presented) The jointing member according to claim 1, wherein a distance from said flange portion of said grommet to said engagement portion of said grommet is smaller than a distance from said head portion of said pin to said lock surface of said pin.